

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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R 052100Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9716

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EA/RA FOR WALKINSHAW

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, NZ

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION TRAINING PROGRAM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CENTER (IRC) OF VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (WELLINGTON), NEW ZEALAND ENGINEERS UNION, AND FEDERATION OF LABOUR TRADE UNION TRAINING BOARD ARE HARD AT WORK ATTEMPTING ESTABLISH SYSTEMATIC TRADE UNION EDUCATION PROGRAM IN NEW ZEALAND. THIS AREA OF TRADE UNION OPERATIONS HAS LONG BEEN NEGLECTED HERE WITH RESULT THAT FEW TRADE UNION LEADERS, PARTICULARLY AT SHOP STEWARD LEVEL, HAVE ANY BACKGROUND OTHER THAN IDEOLOGY TO BRING TO BEAR ON THEIR JOBS.

2. MAJOR PROBLEM IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM HAS BEEN LACK OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO TAKE CHARGE AND GET IT OFF THE GROUND. WHILE IRC HAS PERSONNEL WHO COULD DO THIS THEY ARE, UNDERSTANDABLY, RELUCTANT TO LEAVE THEIR ACADEMIC POSITIONS. WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT JOHN BRUMM, RETIRING EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR IAM, IS INTERESTED IN THE JOB AND COULD COME TO NEW ZEALAND LATER THIS YEAR TO HEAD UP THE PROGRAM. EMBASSY BELIEVES BRUMM IS AN EXCELLENT CHOICE.

3. ENGINEERS, IRC AND FOL WILL BE SHARING COSTS OF

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BRUMM'S SERVICES WHILE HE IS IN NEW ZEALAND. PRESENT

PLANS CALL FOR HIM TO SPEND SEVERAL MONTHS AT IRC FOR ORIENTATION AND FAMILIARIZATION BEFORE GOING TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH ENGINEERS UNION WHERE HE WILL SET UP A SHOP STEWARDS TRAINING PROGRAM. FOLLOWING STINT WITH ENGINEERS HE WILL WORK FOR SOME TIME WITH TRADE UNION TRAINING BOARD. TOTAL TIME IN NEW ZEALAND EXPECTED TO BE ONE-TWO YEARS.

4. WHILE NEW ZEALAND ORGANIZATIONS ARE ABLE TO PICK UP BRUMM'S SALARY, THEY DO NOT HAVE FUNDS FOR TRANSPORTATION. LABATT HAS DISCUSSED TRANSPORTATION COSTS WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY US-NZ EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (USNZEF), WHO SUGGESTED BRUMM APPLY DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS, 2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE, WASHINGTON, DC 20418. BRUMM SHOULD APPLY FOR "TRAVEL ONLY" GRANT. IF APPLICATION IS APPROVED BY COUNCIL IT WILL BE FORWARDED TO USNZEF IN WELLINGTON FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION. APPLICATIONS FOR FY-76 MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE END OF JUNE. REQUEST YOU CALL BRUMM AND PASS ABOVE INFORMATION TO HIM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE - FYI ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR TRADE UNION TRAINING PROGRAM IS SEEN BY LABATT AS MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN NEW ZEALAND. LACK OF SUCH A PROGRAM HAS RESULTED IN TRADE UNION MODERATES BEING UNABLE TO COUNTER IDEOLOGICALLY BASED ATTACKS FROM THE LEFT AND ALSO HAS BEEN FACTOR IN SLOW BY STEADY INCREASE OF LEFTIST INFLUENCE IN BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL UNIONS. WHILE EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM WE BELIEVE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF USG IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO BRUMM WOULD BE USED BY LEFT AS SUFFICIENT EXCHSE TO BOYCOTT HIS EFFORTS. SUCH A BOYCOTT WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR MANY MODERATES TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE PROGRAM. IN LIGHT OF THIS, FUNDING OF BRUMM'S TRANSPORTATION BY USNZEF, WHICH IS SUPPPORTED EQUALLY BY USG AND GNZ, APPEARS TO BE IDEAL SOLUTION. EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR FOLLOW-UP OF BRUMM APPLICATION AND KEEPING US INFORMED OF RESULTS. BURNS

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